From: Jeremy Sparks
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 12:30pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern,

  As a Systems Programmer for Willamette University in Salem Oregon, I have worked recently to create a Windows 2000/XP login client (or GINA) that would be able to authenticate against our existing LDAP directory. The process, was overly obtuse and time consuming primarily because the API's used by Windows are not available and their example source code (at least with regard to my project) does not work. I think it is clear that Microsoft wants to give the appearance that it allows third party programmers to extend it's operating systems without actually giving them the ability to do so. The final result of my work does not extend Windows 2000 as I had hoped and in fact must add a security risk to our existing Windows systems in order to work at all. Instead my work must necessarily rely on the existing Windows login dll (msgina.dll) to interface with the operating system.

  Given that I have first hand experience, I wish to offer my opinion that any remedy which does not give programmers access to the information they need, specifically Windows system APIs, only allows Microsoft to leverage it's operating system to gain monopolies in other areas. In my example they are making it difficult for us to continue to use our existing Unix based servers with their Windows desktop computers. Moreover it is rumored that they intend to remove SMB file sharing from future Windows operating systems. If this happens, and the APIs are not opened, we will have NO CHOICE but to use Microsoft server software. This is not right. I oppose any settlement which allows Microsoft to force companies and universities to use their software.

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